



PRESS RELEASE

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www.ardownsyntaxrome.org

Arkansas Down Syndrome Association to Host Buddy Walk

The 3rd Annual Walk at War Memorial Stadium includes hundreds of participants to raise awareness for Down syndrome.

LITTLE ROCK, AR - On Saturday, October 7, 2023, Arkansas Down Syndrome Association will celebrate **Down Syndrome Awareness Month** with our **3rd Annual Buddy Walk**, at War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock, Arkansas! This is ADSA's largest event and provides members with Down syndrome a chance to socialize with their peers and make lifelong memories all while helping fund our other community events and programs—that are offered to families at no cost. ADSA is a 501(c)3 organization; our vision is that individuals with Down syndrome live an engaged, healthy, and productive life—and our mission is to empower people with Down syndrome and their families by promoting community education, evidence-based health care and social opportunities across their life span.

Independence Sponsors for the Buddy Walk include **Easterseals Arkansas** and **Summit Community Care**, and our **Inclusion sponsors** are **AAA Home Center** and **AR Total Care**.

Event includes DJ Michael Joe Lanari (Read more about this inspiring member of the Down syndrome community here: <https://www.littlerockfamily.com/post/133332/special-success-fran-lanari-and-son-michael-joe>), medals, games and activities for all ages.

For more information on how to participate or donate to the ADSA's Buddy Walk, visit: <https://ardownsyntaxrome.org/events/buddy-walk-2023/>

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed a resolution proclaiming October as National Down Syndrome Month; **Arkansas Senator Dale Bumpers was a co-sponsor of the bill!** [Text of S.J.Res. 254 \(98th\): A joint resolution to designate the month of October, 1984 as "National Down's ... \(Passed Congress version\) - GovTrack.us](#)

People with Down syndrome are born with three copies of the 21st chromosome instead of two (hence, trisomy 21). Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring survivable genetic disorder and is the leading cause of intellectual and developmental disability worldwide — affecting approximately 400,000 families in the United States.